

What's New in the MPDC

JULY 29, 2002

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS AUGUST 6TH

Attention, DC! National Night Out 2002 is August 6. Again this year, residents, business owners, city and community leaders, and the MPDC will actively participate in this annual nationwide crime prevention celebration. Now in its 19th year, National Night Out is designed to bring police and communities closer together in the fight against crime and to send a message to criminals that crime will not be tolerated in our neighborhoods. In DC, events are being

National Night Out is organized nationally by the National Association of Town Watch. Learn more at:

www.nationaltownwatch.org/natw/

planned in all seven police districts – block parties, neighborhood walks, potluck picnics, and youth athletic events, to name a few. Even if your schedule doesn't allow you to participate

in an organized National Night Out event, DC residents are encouraged to turn on their porch lights on August 6th as a show of support and neighborhood solidarity. For a current list of National Night Out events in DC, call the Community Outreach Office at (202) 727-0783 or click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno_2002.shtm

MULTI-DISTRICT TASK FORCE CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE BIZARRE AND DANGEROUS STRING OF DART ATTACKS

The partnerships that are formed, and reinforced, on National Night Out carry on throughout the rest of the year under DC's community policing strategy, called "Policing for Prevention." Policing for Prevention applies three approaches to crime and disorder. Used together, these approaches address immediate crime problems by focusing law enforcement efforts, building partnerships with community stakeholders to sustain success, and using the resources of government and other organizations to work on the underlying causes of crime in a community. The key to this three-pronged approach is sustained community involvement – everything from reporting crime to being an active member of your PSA problem-solving team to volunteering as a block watch captain. Learn more about Policing for Prevention, and how you and your neighbors can get involved, at:

The backbone of Policing for Prevention is the PSA Team – the lieutenant, sergeant and officers assigned to patrol your community and to develop problem-solving strategies. Find out how you can work with your PSA Team in building and sustaining a problem-solving partnership:

mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/psateam.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/together.shtm

PROTECTING YOUR HOME: BURGLARY PREVENTION

After declining in recent years, burglaries in the District are up almost 10 percent this year. Like other property crimes, burglary is largely a crime of opportunity: reduce the opportunity, and you reduce the risk of being victimized. The MPDC encourages all homeowners to check three things: your locks, your windows and doors, and the outside (including lights, shrubbery, etc.). If you are traveling this summer, make sure you take a few simple steps to make your home look "lived-in" while you are away. Get details on these and other burglary prevention tips at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm

THEFT AND PICKPOCKET PREVENTION

Pickpockets operate in all seasons, but the summer months provide thieves with even greater opportunities because people are outdoors and often not paying attention to their valuables. Reduce the risk of becoming a victim by following some basic safety precautions. For men, the target areas for pickpockets are back trouser pockets and sports jacket pockets, both inside and out. A pickpocket generally avoids front trouser pockets, and especially buttoned or zippered pockets. For women, carry a purse that is difficult to open – one with a zipper or snaps is best. And do not carry your wallet in your purse. Conceal it in a buttoned or zippered pocket where it doesn't show a bulge. For everyone, don't leave valuables (wallets, purses, cell phones, etc.) unattended at the park, swimming pool or other outdoor event this summer. These and other theft prevention tips are detailed at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/theft_pickpockets.shtm

STREET SMARTS: GUARDING AGAINST ROBBERY AND ASSAULT

While robberies are on the decline this year in DC, street attacks – robberies and assaults – remain a concern in many neighborhoods. Through PSA patrols and Focused Mission Teams, the MPDC is working to reduce and prevent these crimes. Residents can help by practicing some common-sense “street smarts.” For example, always send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going. Avoid carrying large sums of cash or displaying expensive jewelry. And if you are robbed, don't resist. Most all of, trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave. For additional safety tips, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/robbassault.shtm

STOP AUTO THEFT ... HELP PREVENT CRIME

Approximately 18 vehicles are stolen each day in DC – some by professional thieves, others by criminals looking for transportation or a joy ride. Often, stolen vehicles are used in the commission of other crimes, so preventing auto theft has the additional benefit of helping to prevent crime. The MPDC recommends a “layered approach” to protecting your vehicle – including common sense, visible or audible deterrents, vehicle immobilizers and tracking systems. The theory is that the more “layers of protection” you use, the more difficult your vehicle will be to steal. Learn more about this approach, as well as information on VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) scams, by going to:

One new way you can help protect your vehicle is by participating in Watch Your Car – a free registration program that alerts police if they see your car being driven during the early morning hours. Learn more, and register on-line, at:
mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/autotheft.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV